

KODIAK NAVAL OPERATING BASE, COMMISSARY AND COLD STORAGE
(Kodiak Naval Operating Base, Bldg. No. 27)
U.S. Coast Guard Station
Kodiak
Kodiak Island County
Alaska

HABS No. AK-47-M

HABS
AK
12-KODI,
2M-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Alaska Regional Office
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

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Location: Albatross Avenue (formerly Avenue C) at Cape Sarichef Street (formerly 6th Street).
U.S. Coast Guard Support Center Kodiak, Alaska (Formerly U.S. Naval Operating Base) within the Kodiak Naval Operating Base National Historic Landmark.

Present Owner
And Occupant: U.S. Coast Guard Support Center Kodiak.

Present Use: Cold Storage.

Significance: This building is one of the three remaining support buildings erected to serve the U.S. Naval Operating Base in World War II. This building retains much of its integrity and contributes to the general character of the historic area.

PART I HISTORICAL SURVEY

A. Physical History:

1. **Date of erection:** 1943, from Albert Kahn, Inc., drawings with Approved Date of May 8, 1940.
2. **Architect:** Albert Kahn, Inc., Detroit, Michigan.
3. **Original and Subsequent Owners:** Originally on the U.S. Naval Air Station, Kodiak, Alaska; the facility was transferred to the Coast Guard in 1972.
4. **Builder, Contractor, Suppliers:** The contractors were the Siems Spokane Company, Spokane, WA and Johnson Drake and Piper, Inc., Minneapolis, MN. Construction cost was \$100,000.
5. **Original Plans and Construction** Drawings were prepared by Albert Kahn, Inc., Detroit, Michigan. Due to extensive modifications to meet changing needs since 1943, it is not known whether the construction was fully according to the original plans.

6. Additions and Alterations:

The Commissary store operation has been relocated, and the entire building is now cold storage space. In conjunction with conversion to all cold storage usage, almost all of the existing windows were removed.

Corrugated metal siding shown on original drawings was at some time replaced with cement-asbestos board siding. A new standing seam metal roof was installed in 1988, replacing the original corrugated metal roof.

A room 15' x 22' was added at the northeast corner, with a lower roof and exterior access. This room is not shown on the original drawings and it is not known when it was added.

B. Historical Context:

Kodiak Naval Base represents the build-up of Alaska's defenses from almost nothing in 1938 to a position of increasing strength by the time of the Japanese attack on Dutch Harbor and occupation of the Western Aleutians in 1942. In 1942, there were about 20,731 army and navy troops, 20,000 seabees (Navy Construction Battalions) and approximately 3,500 civilian workers at Kodiak. By 1943, construction at Kodiak resulted in nearly 1,200 buildings. Approximately 120 original structures remain today.

The Coast Guard came to Kodiak in 1947 to act as the Navy's search and rescue arm and to provide logistics support to several light stations and LORAN stations. By 1953, fisheries patrols were begun. The responsibilities of the Coast Guard continued to increase with the construction of additional LORAN stations and an expanded fisheries law enforcement mission.

In 1969, the Navy reduced its force on Kodiak, and in July of 1972, transferred the entire complex to the Coast Guard. The Kodiak Naval Operating Base National Historic Landmark was established in 1985.

The original structure was built as a commissary and cold storage facility. Today it still serves as a cold storage building, although the commissary store has been relocated.

PART II ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. **Architectural Character:** This building is a simple industrial structure, about 20 feet high, with a low gabled roof. It has windows on only the west side, and a covered loading dock along the west side.

2. **Condition of Fabric:** The building is generally in fair condition. A concrete sill wall 7 feet high has lead-based paint which should be removed and then repainted the wall. The siding above the concrete wall contains asbestos and should be removed and replaced. The roof is a metal standing seam system, which was installed in 1988. There is some indication that there may be structural problems with piles and sub-slabs, although until wearing slabs and cold storage insulation are removed, it cannot be fully assessed. Cold storage boxes, doors, and refrigeration equipment are old, inefficient, and in need of replacement.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. **Overall Dimensions:** A square, 121'-9" x 121'-9", plus a covered loading dock 12 feet wide along the west side, and a room approximately 15' x 22' at the northeast corner. The roof has a pitch of 1" in 1 foot, with eave height of 18 feet and a ridge height of 23 feet.
2. **Foundations:** A composite wood and concrete pile was used. Pile caps, footings and slab are of reinforced concrete.
3. **Walls:** Exterior walls consist of a reinforced concrete wall 4'-8" above the finish floor, approximately 8' above grade, 10 inches thick. Above this wall is 1-5/8 inch thick wood plank, supported by steel columns and angles. The original drawings show this was covered with corrugated metal sheets, but today the siding is a cement asbestos board.
4. **Structural System:** 8-inch steel columns are in bays 20 feet x 30 feet. 18" beams spanning 30 feet support 12" beams at 10 feet on center. A deck of 2-5/8 inch wood planks spans these beams.
5. **Openings:**
 - a. **Doorways and Doors:** The original drawings show steel doors, half or fully glazed, single or pairs. Doors have glazed transoms above. As building use has changed, some doors have been removed and openings filled in.
 - b. **Windows:** The building was originally glazed with steel sash 6'-10" high above the concrete sill walls. The east wall had 32 feet of sash in the two easternmost bays; the south wall had 4 sections of sash, 2 at 24 feet long and 2 at 28 feet long; the west wall had 20', 4', 4', 8', and 16' sections of sash; and the north wall had 2-16' sections and 1-8' section of sash.

As the building has been modified due to changing needs, most windows have been removed, except for some on the west side. Openings were covered when cement asbestos board siding was installed.

6. **Roof:** The building originally had a corrugated metal roof over the wood plank deck. In 1988, a standing seam metal roof was installed.

C. Description of Interior:

1. **Floor Plan:** The building is a square 121'-9" x 121'-9", with a loading dock 12 feet wide along the west side, and a room 15' x 22' at the northeast corner.

The original layout included a commissary 45' x 28' on the north side; office 16' x 28' at northwest corner; refrigeration machine room 32' x 38' and 2 toilet rooms on the west side; office 20' x 30' on the west side; dry storage 40' x 120' on the south side; and meat, dairy and vegetable coolers 60' x 80' at the northeast corner.

As building use has changed, the commissary and offices have been relocated and additional refrigerated rooms have been installed.

2. **Flooring:** Original drawings indicated all rooms had cement floor finish.
3. **Wall and Ceiling Finishes:** Original interior walls were 3" thick reinforced concrete, or the exposed face of exterior walls (concrete and wood plank). Offices were enclosed with a system of glass and metal panels supported by channels; this does not exist today. There are no notes on the drawings stating whether any of this was painted.
4. **Openings:**
 - a. **Doorways:** Doors are steel, generally with one-half glazing, set in 6" channel frames.
 - b. **Windows:** Glass and metal partitions originally installed at offices do not exist today.
5. **Mechanical Equipment:**
 - a. **Heating:** The original building had steam radiators around the perimeter in the commissary, offices, toilet rooms, and dry storage room. Other areas were chilled by equipment in the refrigeration machine room.
 - b. **Lighting:** Drawings showing original lighting were not available.
 - c. **Plumbing:** The original building had extensive piping to supply the toilet rooms and refrigerated areas.

- d. Sprinklers: Original drawings indicated only the dry storage room and adjacent office had fire protection sprinklers.

D. Site:

1. **General Setting and Orientation:** Building 27 is one of the buildings listed as associated with the industrial area on the 1985 nomination form for the Kodiak Naval Operating Base National Historic Landmark. This industrial area is bounded by Albatross Avenue (formerly Avenue C), Cape Sarichef Street (formerly 6th Street), Cape Spencer Street (formerly 5th Street) and a taxiway between hangars and Kodiak Airport. During the period of significance, the industrial area was made up of buildings, structures, and yards whose functions included cold storage; workshops; administrative offices; commissary and stores; equipment storage, maintenance and staging; materials storage and staging; and aircraft storage and maintenance. The facilities in this area continue to serve in a similar function today.

The buildings face northwest toward Old Woman Mountain, and to the southeast of the buildings is a large open lay-down area extending to the taxiway. During the period of significance the area was somewhat more rough-textured than it is today, with more smooth-surfaced areas now as the facility is more permanent.

The only landscaping around the building is grass on the north and east sides of the building.

PART III SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Original Architectural Drawings:

1. Drawings prepared by Albert Kahn, Inc., Detroit, Michigan, for U.S. Naval Air Station, Kodiak, Alaska, Commissary and Cold Storage, Bureau of Yards and Docks Drawing No. 136852 through 136863, with Submitted Dates of April 20, 1940 and April 25, 1940.
2. Reroof Drawing by U.S. Coast Guard, 17th District Civil Engineering, Juneau, Alaska, C.G. Drawing No. 3023, dated 2/18/88, and marked As Built 10-10-88.

B. Field observation by Robert D. Harthorne, March 8-10, 1994.

C. U.S. Coast Guard Support Center Kodiak, "Historic Resources Management Plan", dated April 1993.

D. U.S. Navy Department, Bureau of Yards and Docks, Contract NOy-3570, August 29, 1939.

E. Prepared by:

David Frost, Architect
Harthorne Hagen Architects
1725 8th Avenue N.
Seattle, Washington 98109

March 31, 1994

PART IV PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project was undertaken by the U. S. Coast Guard in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act and a Memorandum of Agreement with the State Historic Preservation Officer and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation as mitigation for effects of rehabilitation of and addition to Coast Guard Building 27 (Cold Storage) within the Kodiak Naval Operating Base National Historic Landmark. HABS project coordinators were Robert Harthorne, AIA and Susan L. Boyie, Chief of the NEPA Support Branch, Civil Engineering Division, USCG Maintenance and Logistics Command Pacific. Historic data was compiled by Robert Harthorne, AIA, and David Frost, of Harthorne Hagen Architects, Seattle, Washington. Original architectural drawings were transferred from Coast Guard files. Photographs were taken by Ron Klein, of Juneau, Alaska, in 1987 and 1994. Photographs and narrative histories were submitted to the Alaska Regional Office of the National Park Service and drawings were provided to the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer, Anchorage, Alaska.